At their approach the Finns fled to the forests and engaged in successful guerilla warfare against their invaders. When they returned home they would find their homes in ashes and their fields ruined, but with [illegible]m perseverance they kept up their resistance. It is no wonder that in those circumstances there developed in the Finns a mistrust, even a hatred, towards the Russians and everything that was Russian, a feeling that was inherited by each new generation.

By this time the Finns had begun to achieve universal fame as excellent soldiers and generals. The number of Finnish men in the Swedish army was proportionally much larger than that of the Swedes, and the Finnish units were regarded as striking forces which were

entrusted with the most responsible battlefield positions. The Finnish cavalry under Gustavus Adolphus and his successors in the Thirty Years' War performed a decisive role in the victories at Breitenfeldt, Lech and Lutzen, and they became the terror of the enemy. A rumor was soon circulated that the Finns were witches and devils whom no ordinary spear or bullet could destroy. These Finnish soldiers, called "Hakkapelites" after a German distortion of their famous battle-cry Hakkaa päälle! ('Strike on!'), are still remembered both in Finland and in Germany as the first representatives of Finnish military fitness.

During the seventeenth century the area of Finland had expanded to include the western shores of Lake Ladoga and the province of